

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 13-16, and 18 remain in the application. Claims 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, and 17 are hereby cancelled. Claims 1, 6, and 14 are hereby amended as shown in the attached marked-up copy of the claims. New claim 18 is added.

Specification

The abstract was objected to and is hereby amended as shown in the attached marked-up copy of the abstract.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 14 (second recitation), 15, and 16 were renumbered in the Office Action as claims 15, 16, and 17. The corrected claim numbers are used in this response. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the correction.

Claim 1 is amended to include:

"magnet means for holding the ferrule of the brush; including:

a magnet; and

a ferromagnetic housing for said magnet;

including:

a plurality of horizontal ridges extending beyond said magnet for contacting the ferrule of the paint brush; said housing being attached to said center prong and said magnet being attached to said housing."

The added matter is drawn from original claim 12, which was found allowable in the Office Action if re-written in independent form. No new matter is added.

None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest a magnet attached to a ferromagnetic housing with ridges for contacting the ferrule of a paintbrush. Amended claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious from the cited references, singly or in combination. Amended claim 1 is thus seen to allowable and allowance is requested.

Claim 2 is hereby cancelled.

Claims 3 and 4, depending ultimately upon now-allowable claim 1 and reciting further patentable subject matter, are seen to be allowable and allowance is requested.

Claim 5 is hereby cancelled.

Independent claim 6 is amended similarly to claim 1, to include a magnet attached to a ferromagnetic housing with ridges for contacting the ferrule of the paintbrush. None of the references cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest a magnet attached to a ferromagnetic housing with ridges for contacting the ferrule of a paintbrush. Amended claim 6 is neither anticipated nor obvious from the cited references, singly or in combination. Amended claim 6 is thus seen to allowable and allowance is requested.

Claims 7, 8, 10, and 13, depending ultimately upon now-allowable claim 6 and reciting further patentable subject matter, are seen to be allowable and allowance is requested.

Claims 9, 11, and 12 are hereby cancelled.

Independent claim 14 is hereby amended similarly to claims 1 and 6 to include a magnet attached to a ferromagnetic housing with ridges for contacting the ferrule of the paintbrush. None of the references

cited by the Examiner disclose or suggest a magnet attached to a ferromagnetic housing with ridges for contacting the ferrule of a paintbrush. Amended claim 14 is neither anticipated nor obvious from the cited references, singly or in combination. Amended claim 14 is thus seen to allowable and allowance is requested.

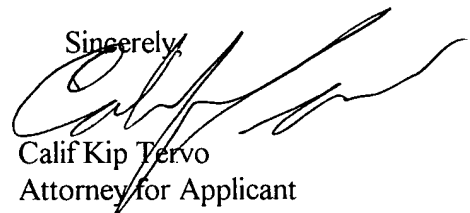
Claims 15 and 16, depending ultimately upon now-allowable claim 14 and reciting further patentable subject matter, are seen to be allowable and allowance is requested.

Claim 17 is hereby cancelled.

Original claim 12 was found allowable if re-written in independent form. For clarity, claim 12 is cancelled and **new independent claim 18** is hereby added, incorporating the subject matter of cancelled claim 12 including all antecedent claims. Allowance of new claim 18 is requested.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at (619) 234-4034 if it will aid in the disposition of this application.

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Sincerely,

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